

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of January 12, 2007. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the above-identified Patent Application. Claims 1-14 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicant amended Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 14 and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the rejected Claims, as explained in more detail below.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection of the Claims

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Lo. Applicant submits the following remarks wherein the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present Application recites a spring hinge for spectacles. The spring hinge includes a hinge element, a locking body and a spring element, all disposed within a housing formed within a side piece of the spectacles. To secure the hinge element within the housing, the locking body is provided with a receiving region, and the housing is providing with a deformation region, which is displaceable into the receiving region. As claimed in Claim 1 and shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the present Application, the receiving region "is configured such that the locking body and the hinge element are **prevented from being twisted** and from being pulled out of the recess" (*emphasis added*).

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Lo teaches "the locking body 20 having a receiving region 205 and the housing having a deformation region 502 which is displaceable into the receiving region 205 characterized in that the receiving region 205 is configured such that the locking body 20 and hence the hinge element 10 is prevented from being twisted and from being pulled out of the recess." (*Office Action*, page 3). However, reference number (205) of the Lo Patent refers to the guiding slot, not the receiving region. (*See, e.g.* Column 2, Lines 19-20). Instead, the deformation region (502) engages the receiving region (203) of the locking body (20). Moreover, this engagement only precludes an axial movement of the locking body. As shown in Fig. 4

of the Lo reference, the receiving region (203) is an annular groove, and there is no feature preventing the deformation region (502) from moving along this annular groove, i.e., twisting the locking body. Thus, the twisting movement of the locking body is allowed by the hinge design of Lo. Therefore, Lo does not disclose the limitation of current Claim 1 requiring the receiving region to be "configured such that the locking body and the hinge element are prevented from being twisted."

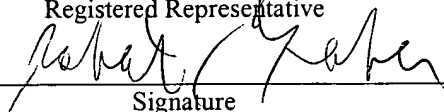
Based on the above, Applicants believe Claim 1 to be allowable over the cited prior art. Moreover, dependent Claims 2-14 are also believed to be allowable because of their dependency on Claim 1 and further on their own merits.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel (please note the change of correspondence information) if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 23, 2007:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

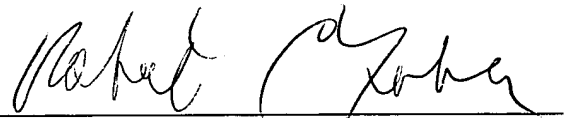


Signature

March 23, 2007

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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